

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01207 280844Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 271115Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3391

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1207

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, BEXP, SW
SUBJ: EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION STAFFING

REF: STATE 56345

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, STOCKHOLM IS STUDYING ALTERNATIVES FOR OFFICE SPACE WITHIN THE CHANCERY FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTION AND WILL BE SUBMITTING IN APRIL A DETAILED PROPOSAL WITH COST ESTIMATES FOR REMODELING THE EMBASSY TO ACCOMMODATE THE COMMERCIAL SECTION.

2. LOOKING AFTER THOSE FSL EMPLOYEES WHO WILL BE WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSING OF THE TRADE CENTER IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN HOUSING COMMERCIAL SECTION WITHIN THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER IS NEEDED AND REQUESTED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR HAS MADE A MORAL COMMITMENT TO THE TRADE CENTER STAFF THAT HE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE THEIR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE USG UNTIL THEY CAN BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE REGULAR STAFFING OF THE EMBASSY OR, OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT CAN BE FOUND FOR THEM. HIS POSITION ON THIS REMAINS UNCHANGED.

4. BASED ON STATE 56345, THE EMBASSY HAS NINE FSLs (FOUR STATE AND FIVE COMMERCE) THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CENTER'S CLOSURE.
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OF THESE EMPLOYEES, ONE HAS FOUND OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND ANOTHER WAS HIRED UNDER A TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT THROUGH JUNE 30, 1978. OF THE REMAINING SEVEN, TWO MORE CAN BE ABSORBED IN POSITIONS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE BY NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30 AS A RESULT OF A RETIREMENT AND AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS LEAVING SWEDEN. THAT NARROWS OUR PROBLEM TO FIVE EMPLOYEES AND ONE OF THEM CAN BE ABSORBED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1978 WHEN THE DAO FSL

SECRETARY RETIRES. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT CAN ABSORB THE REMAINING FOUR EMPLOYEES THROUGH EMPLOYEE TURNOVER IF STOCKHOLM IS GIVEN THE TIME NECESSARY TO WORK THIS OUT. THE EMBASSY IS SEEKING FIVE REGULAR OR PIT POSITIONS FROM JUNE 30, 1978 FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXTEND BEYOND JUNE 30, 1979. IF IT WOULD HELP, STOCKHOLM WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HAVING FIVE REGULAR POSITIONS TO O/A SEPTEMBER 30, 1978 AND THEN SUBSTITUTE THESE POSITIONS WITH PIT POSITIONS FOR AS LONG A PERIOD AS POSSIBLE UP TO JUNE 30, 1979. AS OPENINGS OCCUR, THE EMBASSY WOULD, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, TRANSFER ONE OF THE FORMER TC EMPLOYEES TO THE NEWLY OPENED POSITIONS. STOCKHOLM UNDERSTANDS THE POSITION CEILING LIMITS THE DEPARTMENT FACES AND WANTS TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO STAY WITHIN THESE CEILINGS WHILE MAINTAINING THE EMPLOYEES FOR NOT MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER THE CENTER CLOSES.

5. IN SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE WILLING, IF NECESSARY, TO RELEASE THE EMPLOYEES PRIOR TO FISCAL YEAR-END FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND REHIRE THEM SHORTLY THEREAFTER. OBVIOUSLY, THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO IMMEDIATELY RETURN EACH POSITION TO THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD THE EMPLOYEE FIND OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR FILL A REGULAR EMBASSY POSITION. IN OTHERWORDS, WE DO NOT WISH TO CIRCUMVENT THE POSITION CEILINGS TO AVOID THE PERMANENT LOST OF THESE POSITIONS. FROM JULY 1, 1978 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1979 STOCKHOLM SIMPLY NEEDS FIVE POSITIONS AND APPROXIMATELY 45,000 DOLLARS AS A ONE-TIME EXPENSE TO RESOLVE ITS STAFFING PROBLEMS, AND THERE IS NO QUESTIONS THAT THESE EMPLOYEES

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COULD BE KEPT MEANINGFULLY EMPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE EMBASSY'S RESTRUCTURED COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

6. THIS PROPOSAL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE INSPECTORS AND INSPECTOR VALAS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH EUR/EX IN MID-APRIL, IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY RESERVATIONS. NATURALLY, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH STOCKHOLM'S PROPOSAL, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING SO ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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